

CLAIMS

1. An antiwrinkle cosmetic composition comprising a substantially purified essential oil extracted from flower tops of *Helichrysum italicum*.
2. The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, adapted for application to the body or face.
3. The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the essential oil is obtained by hydrodistillation or by an extraction fluid at or close to the supercritical state.
4. The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the essential oil comprises about 40 to about 70% by weight of neryl acetate.
5. The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, comprising about 0.1 to about 5% by weight of said oil in relation to the weight of the composition.
6. The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, comprising about 0.1 to about 2.1% by weight of said oil in relation to the weight of the composition.
7. The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the essential oil is enclosed in controlled-release nanospheres.

8. The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, further comprising a skin compatible carrier.

9. The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, further comprising an agent that augments production of collagen I and VEGF.

10. The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, further comprising an additional active ingredient selected from the group consisting of natural perhydrosqualene, sucroesters, borage oil, oenothera oil, grapestone oil, vitamin A, vitamin E and allantoin.

11. A method of treating wrinkles in skin comprising applying on the skin an effective quantity of a composition according to claim 1.

12. A method of preventing wrinkles in skin comprising applying on the skin an effective quantity of a composition according to claim 1.

13. A method of hydrating skin comprising applying on the skin an effective quantity of a composition according to claim 1.